Annual Report

of the

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

of

Wilkes County

1921—1922.

PURCHASED FROM

MRS. MARY GENTRY

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Press of Wilkes Patriot, Wilkesboro, N. C.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY 1922

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PUBLIC EXAMINATION DAYS

Second Tuesday in April, July and October

REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

First Monday in each month

MEETING OF TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Second Friday and Saturday in September, October and November.

COLORED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

First Friday and Saturday in September, October and November.

THE WORK OF THE YEAR

The final reports from the teachers of Wilkes County for the scholastic year ending June 30, 1922 show a number of interesting facts among which we find the following:

The school census gives the number of children between the ages of six and twenty-one as 11,653. Of this number, 10,632 are white, and 1,021 are colored. Of the total number 11,017 are rural. As to sex, 5,508 are males and 5,124 females. The school census last year was 11,397 an increase of 256 over one year ago.

The enrollment in school last year was 10,181. This year it was 10,557, an increase of 376. The average daily attendance last year was 6880. For this year it was 7,304, an increase of 424.

The percentage of the school census enrolled last year was 89, while this year it is 90. The average daily attendance in the schools last year was 60 percent of the school census, while this year it was 62 per cent. The average daily attendance of the enrollment a year ago was 67 percent while this year it was 69 per cent.

The value of all school property of the county including houses, sites equipment, etc., was last year $213,441.00. For this year it was $243,860.00 an increase of $30,419.00. These reports show further that there are 150 rural school houses in the county, 147 are frame buildings, 2 brick, and one log. Of this number 97 have two or more rooms while 53 are one-room buildings. Of the 150 school buildings 82 are furnished with patent desks, 60 with home made desks, and 8 with benches. The reports show 5388 desks in use in the schools.

Of the 10,035 children enrolled in the rural schools, 2,726 were enrolled in the first grade, 1,458 in the second grade, 1,236 in the third grade, 1,369 in the fourth grade,

1,161 in the fifth grade, 976 in the sixth grade, 752 in the seventh grade, 224 in the eighth grade, 63 in the ninth grade, 27 in the tenth grade, and 43 in the eleventh grade.

The number of children transported to school this year was 40. The number of schools having two teachers was 86, the number having three teachers 36, the number having four teachers or more in the rural schools, 8. The number of schools in which high school subjects were taught, was 58.

The number of schools having less than 65 children of school age was 58. The number of rural school libraries 150 the number of supplemental libraries, 285. The number of second original liabries was 32, 5 of these second original libraries were established during the year together with 5 supplemental libraries. The total number of volumes in these libraries is 16360. The total number of local tax districts in the county is 35. The number of rural teachers this year was 305. Of this number 73 were employed in local tax districts. Six teachers devoted their entire time to high school work, 60 devoted part of their time to high school work. The number of teachers teaching this year for the first time was 40, the number having had only one years experience 52, the number having had two years experience 43, the number who had three years experience, 39, while the number having had four or more years experience was 131. The number of teachers who were graduates of normal schools was 16, the number holding college diplomas, 22, number of teachers who are natives of the county, 249, number who are natives of North Carolina 303. The number of illiterates as reported by the teachers for the year between the ages of 12 and 21 years was 103. The number of adult illiterates, 635.

The number of children enrolled in school during the year between the ages of 7 and 13 was 5,731. The average daily attendance between these ages for the entire term was 4,410. The total number of days attended by all the children in all rural schools for the year was 786,120.

The number of pupils studying arithmetic in the schools this year was 6018, as against 5621 last year, 5231

studying language and grammar this year as against 4665 a year ago; 4214 studying geography as against 3840 last year, 2121 studying physiology as against 2100 one year ago; 921 studying North Carolina history as against 795 last year, 2163 studying United States history as against 1885 one year ago; 615 studying civics as against 480 last year, 907 studying Agriculture as against 994 last year.

There were 205 parents' meetings held during the year as against 185 last year. There were 236 pupils who completed the seventh grade and who received their diplomas as against 205 last year. There were 1,014 children who were perfect in attendance for the term as against 698 a year ago. There were 258 pupils who were perfect in spelling for the term as against 239 last year. Library Certificates were awarded to 135 pupils who had met the requirements of the Board of Education here in that they had read not less than 25 books from the school library during the calendar year. Last year 47 certificates were awarded.

There were enrolled in the teachers' association this year 362 as against 314 last year. There are now 112 painted school houses in the county as against 95 a year ago. There are 128 schools having bells as against 95 last year. There were 242 entertainments held in the schools during the term as against 192 last year. There were 54 literary societies and betterment associations organized during the year. Forty-three schools reported baseball grounds and teams. Manual training was taught in 21 schools, and last but not by any means least, gold medals were awarded at the county commencements last spring to 25 pupils who had been perfect in attendance for seven years, while two of these had not missed a day from school in eleven years.

The town of Wilkesboro is erecting a commodious wing to the school building at that place, giving several more needed class rooms.

The town of Ronda is erecting a large brick building, containing fifteen class rooms with heat, light and water. Millers' Creek has erected a new three room building during the year, Maple Springs a three room building. This is a consolidation with the Shepherd School. Wilbar a three

room building, while other districts have erected two room buildings, all after the state suggested plans for school houses. Quite a number of patent desks, blackboards, maps etc., have been purchased this year.

Twelve schools have been consolidated and six schools made instead. Transportation of pupils has been provided from fourteen different points.

The schools at Wilkesboro and Ronda will be placed on the accredited list of State high schools this year, while Miller's Creek high school has been advanced from Group III, Class C to Class B.

The county, as in the past, was divided into four sections in each of which was held a county, or group commencement at which were held contests in bread, biscuit and cake baking, prizes being awarded to the winners in each. Recitation-declamation contests were also held, and old time spelling bees were staged, medals being awarded to the winners in these. Preliminary contests were first held in the various schools in March where representatives were selected to the township contest which selected in like manner representatives to the several groups.

Summer Schools were again held for both white and colored teachers. At each of these practically all the teachers whose certificates had previously expired, secured either a renewal of these or were advanced to those of a higher class, entitling their holders to better salaries.

The manner of awarding library certificates to those pupils in the schools who had met the requirements of the county board of education was changed in that the number of books to be read was reduced from fifty to twenty five.

The plan of exhibiting other comparative charts and an outline map of the county showing among other activities the enrollment in the schools was continued this year. A fact worth noting in this connection is that at last no township falls in Class E as to its enrollment. This means that no one of these falls below 80 per cent in this respect.

The plan of continuing the award of monthly certificates of attendance was continued, and it is very gratifying

to note that several hundred more of these were given out than ever before.

The Reading Circle work has been stressed and emphasized this year with the result that 160 teachers enrolled in the group meetings for professional study and improvement.

Last, but by no means, least, we desire to mention the fact that for the first time in the educational history of the work here there is not a second grade teacher at work in the schools. This is unquestionably one of the most far reaching and important rules ever adopted by the board of education, and possibly means more for the professional improvement of our teachers here than all the other rules and regulations combined. Last year there were seventy two teachers holding second grade certificates at work in the county.

Thanking those who have labored so arduously with us to achieve the results enumerated above, and with gratitude to the Giver of all good for His blessings upon the work we enter upon the new year hoping the results along educational lines may merit and may receive the approval of all.

To the Board of Education.

Gentlemen:

I herewith respectfully submit to you my annual report of the public schools of Wilkes County for the year 1922.

I have endeavored to give somewhat in detail the more important features of the year's work.

I call your attention to the tables shown in this report, and more especially to that giving the educational progress of the county for the past twenty years, comparing the activities of the year 1902 with those of the year now closing.

C. C. WRIGHT,

County Superintendent of Schools.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.

During the year the following letter was sent to all the school principals in the county:

In order to further stimulate the work in the county we have decided to continue the Standard of Excellence which has been in operation in the schools here for some time past.

The names of all the schools which can measure up to the requirements enumerated below will be published in the annual report of the public schools. The requirements are as follows:

1. Is the school building painted?_____
2. Has the school a bell?_____
3. Has the district an original library?
4. Has the school library been supplemented?_____
5. Has the school room been supplied with desks?___
6. Has your school been supplied with maps, blackboards and charts?
7. Has your school enrollment reached not less than 90 per cent. of the census?_____
8. Has the average daily attendance reached not less than 75 per cent. of the enrollment?_____
9. Have you established or tried to establish a school farm or garden during the term?
10. _____

No. 10 is intended for any particular activity which the teacher thinks worthy of mention and which may be counted in lieu of any one of the above. The superintendent is to pass on the merit of this number.

Those answering 70 per cent. of the above questions in the affirmative will be entitled to a place on the list of A 1 schools.